

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

1. – 38. (Canceled)

39. (Previously Presented) A method of rendering infectious prions non-infectious, comprising the steps of:

contacting infectious prions with a formulation comprising a cationic detergent; and  
maintaining the formulation with an acid chosen from peracetic acid and acetic acid at a pH in a range of from about 2.5 to about 4.5 and at a temperature in a range of from about 15°C to about 140°C so as to render the infectious prions completely non-infectious in two hours or less.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39, wherein the cationic detergent is dodecyltriethylammonium bromide (DTAB) .

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39, wherein the cationic detergent is cetyltrimethylammonium bromide (CTAB).